



PUBH 210: Global Health Systems & Inequities

Term: Fall 2026

Credits: 3.0

Lecture Times & Location: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00–2:15 p.m., Calder Health Sciences Building 160

Modality: In-Person

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Instructor Information

- **Instructor:** Dr. Colette Duval (Assistant Professor of Public Health)
- **Email:** cduval@university.alkimi.ai
- **Office:** Calder Health Sciences Building 312
- **Office Hours:**
 - Monday & Thursday: 9:00–10:30 a.m. (In person, Calder Health Sciences Building 312)
 - Friday: 9:00–10:00 a.m. (Virtual via Zoom; link posted in Canvas)
 - Also available by appointment.

Course Description

The global burden of disease, health systems and financing across countries, global health governance, and social and economic drivers of health inequities. PUBH 210 examines population health patterns, health system structures, and systemic inequities across the globe. Grounded in the World Health Organization (WHO) health systems framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), students analyze the global burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases using metrics such as Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs). The course investigates how historical colonial legacies, structural economic policies, and global governance institutions (such as the WHO, the Global Fund, and Gavi) intersect with domestic health financing models to shape health access and outcomes worldwide.

Prerequisites

PUBH 101.

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of PUBH 210, students will be able to:

1. **Analyze the Global Burden of Disease:** Interpret epidemiological transitions, demographic trends, and composite metrics including Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) across low-, middle-, and high-income nations.
2. **Evaluate Comparative Health Systems and Financing Models:** Compare Beveridge, Bismarck, National Health Insurance, and out-of-pocket health systems using the WHO building blocks of service delivery, workforce, information, medical products, financing, and leadership.
3. **Examine Global Health Governance and Aid Architecture:** Critique the roles, funding mechanisms, and geopolitical power dynamics of international agencies, bilateral initiatives (e.g., PEPFAR), multilateral institutions, and non-governmental organizations.

4. **Assess Social and Economic Drivers of Inequity:** Analyze how poverty, gender inequality, armed conflict, forced displacement, and environmental degradation create systemic health disparities within and between countries.
5. **Design Culturally Grounded Global Health Interventions:** Formulate an evidence-based, sustainable intervention proposal addressing a maternal, child, or infectious health priority in a low-resource community.

Required Course Materials & Approximate Costs

1. **Skolnik, Richard. *Global Health 101*. 4th ed., Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2020.** Approx. \$85 print, \$50 digital rental.
2. **Jacobsen, Kathryn H. *Introduction to Global Health*. 4th ed., Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2023.** Approx. \$90 print or digital.
3. **Total estimated cost:** \$90 to \$135.

Generative AI Policy (AI Level 2: AI Permitted with Disclosure for Specified Tasks)

In accordance with Alkimi University Academic Policies (Student Handbook §5.8), PUBH 210 operates under **AI Level 2**.

- **What is permitted:** You may use generative AI tools to explore country-level demographic profiles, identify relevant international health treaty timelines, brainstorm policy stakeholder perspectives, and polish draft narrative sections for clarity and flow.
- **What is prohibited:** You may not use generative AI to write your comparative health systems analysis, formulate global policy recommendations, generate falsified epidemiological indicators, or complete weekly quizzes and examinations. Submitting AI-generated policy briefs violates academic standards.
- **Disclosure:** All submitted country case studies and policy proposals must feature an AI disclosure note stating which generative AI tools were consulted and the exact prompts submitted. If no AI tools were used, state: 'No generative AI tools were used in preparing this work.'

Grading Components and Weights

- **Midterm Examination 1:** 15% (In class, Thursday, October 1)
- **Midterm Examination 2:** 15% (In class, Thursday, November 12)
- **Comparative Health Systems Country Profile Paper:** 20% (Due Friday, October 23 at 11:59 p.m.)
- **Global Health Intervention Policy Proposal:** 15% (Due Friday, November 20 at 11:59 p.m.)
- **Weekly Global Health Reading & Case Canvas Quizzes:** 15% (Due Mondays at 11:59 p.m. in Canvas; lowest quiz score dropped)
- **Final Examination:** 20% (Monday, December 14, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m.)

Grading Scale (Alkimi University Standard)

- **A:** 93–100% | **A-:** 90–92%
- **B+:** 87–89% | **B:** 83–86% | **B-:** 80–82%
- **C+:** 77–79% | **C:** 73–76% | **C-:** 70–72%
- **D+:** 67–69% | **D:** 60–66% | **F:** Below 60%
- **Extra credit:** No individual extra credit assignments are offered in this course.

Course Schedule (Fall 2026)

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
Week 1	Aug 27	Principles and Goals of Global Health: Defining global health, global health ethics, the Alma-Ata Declaration, and the	<i>First day of classes: Wed Aug 26.</i>

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
		transition from Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). <i>Reading: Skolnik, Ch. 1–2</i>	
Week 2	Sep 1, 3	Measuring Health and the Global Burden of Disease: Health indicators, life expectancy, infant mortality, DALYs, QALYs, and the epidemiological shift from infectious to chronic disease burdens. <i>Reading: Skolnik, Ch. 3</i>	<i>Wed Sep 2: Add/section change deadline.</i>
Week 3	Sep 8, 10	Human Rights, Ethics, and Global Health: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, TRIPS patent flexibilities, access to essential medicines, and human rights during pandemic responses. <i>Reading: Skolnik, Ch. 4</i>	<i>Mon Sep 7: Labor Day (no classes). Wed Sep 9: Census date (last day to drop without a W).</i>
Week 4	Sep 15, 17	Health Systems Frameworks and Comparative Typologies: WHO health system building blocks, universal health coverage (UHC), Beveridge, Bismarck, National Health Insurance, and private out-of-pocket systems. <i>Reading: Skolnik, Ch. 5</i>	—
Week 5	Sep 22, 24	Health Care Financing, Equity, and Catastrophic Expenditure: General taxation, social health insurance, private health insurance, out-of-pocket user fees, and impoverishing medical expenses in low-income settings. <i>Reading: Skolnik, Ch. 5; Jacobsen, Ch. 12</i>	—
Week 6	Sep 29, Oct 1	Global Health Governance and Aid Architecture: World Health Organization structure and powers, bilateral aid (USAID, PEPFAR), multilateral funds (Global Fund, Gavi), and philanthropic foundations; Midterm Examination 1 in class. <i>Reading: Skolnik, Ch. 16</i>	Midterm Examination 1 (in class).
Week 7	Oct 6, 8	Colonial Legacies and Decolonizing Global Health: Historical roots of tropical medicine, power asymmetries between high-income donors and recipient nations, and local community leadership models. <i>Reading: Selected WHO and Lancet Global Health readings</i>	—
Week 8	Oct 15	Environmental Health, Climate Change, and Planetary Health: Household air pollution, safely managed water and sanitation (WASH), extreme weather events, and climate displacement as drivers of global health inequities. <i>Reading: Skolnik, Ch. 6</i>	<i>Oct 12–Oct 13: Fall break (no classes). Fri Oct 16: Midterm grades due.</i>
Week 9	Oct 20, 22	Nutrition and Global Food Insecurity: Under-five stunting and wasting, micronutrient deficiencies (vitamin A, iron, iodine), the double burden of malnutrition, and global food system disruptions. <i>Reading: Skolnik, Ch. 7</i>	Comparative Health Systems Country Profile Paper due Fri Oct 23 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 10	Oct 27, 29	Women's Health and Maternal Mortality: Maternal mortality ratios, three delays model of maternal survival, family planning access, obstetric fistula, and gender-based violence. <i>Reading: Skolnik, Ch. 8</i>	—
Week 11	Nov 3, 5	Child and Adolescent Health in Global Context: Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), pneumonia, diarrheal disease, malaria, expanded program on immunization (EPI), and adolescent mental health. <i>Reading: Skolnik, Ch. 9–10</i>	<i>Fri Nov 6: Last day to withdraw (W) or elect Pass/No Pass.</i>
Week 12	Nov 10, 12	Communicable Diseases: HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria, and Neglected Tropical Diseases: Epidemiology and global control strategies for HIV, drug-resistant tuberculosis, malaria vector control, and mass drug administration for NTDs; Midterm Examination 2 in class. <i>Reading: Skolnik, Ch. 11–12</i>	Midterm Examination 2 (in class).
Week 13	Nov 17, 19	Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health in LMICs: Cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, tobacco control (FCTC), and the treatment gap for mental, neurological, and substance use disorders in LMICs. <i>Reading: Skolnik, Ch. 13</i>	Global Health Intervention Policy Proposal due Fri Nov 20 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 14	Nov 24	Humanitarian Crises, Armed Conflict, and Forced Migration: Health of refugees and internally displaced persons, refugee	<i>Nov 25–Nov 27: Thanksgiving break (no classes).</i>

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
		camp epidemiology, emergency nutrition, and the Sphere humanitarian minimum standards. <i>Reading: Skolnik, Ch. 15</i>	
Week 15	Dec 1, 3	Community Health Worker Networks and Grassroots Health Systems: Task-shifting models, community health worker empowerment, supply chain bottlenecks, and expanding primary healthcare at the last mile. <i>Reading: Selected case studies from Dr. Duval's research</i>	—
Week 16	Dec 8	Future Pathways in Global Health Equity and Synthesis: Pandemic treaty negotiations, sustainable development milestones, and comprehensive preparation for the final examination. <i>Reading: Course review packet</i>	<i>Wed Dec 9: Last day of classes. Thu Dec 10: Reading Day.</i>
Finals	Dec 14	Final Examination: Monday, December 14, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m., Calder Health Sciences Building 160.	Comprehensive examination on global burden of disease, comparative health systems, governance, and health equity.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Class attendance and meaningful participation are vital. Our class analyzes real-world case dilemmas involving international health systems, humanitarian crises, and ethical trade-offs. If an illness or unforeseen circumstance prevents you from attending, notify Dr. Duval before class. More than three unexcused absences will result in a lower participation score. Students who miss the first two class meetings without notifying the instructor may be dropped. Students may miss class for religious observance without penalty if they notify the instructor in writing within the first two weeks of the semester (by Wednesday, September 9, 2026). Absences for university-sponsored activities (athletics, performances, conferences) are excused with a letter from the sponsoring office at least one week in advance.

Late Work Policy

Assignments submitted past the deadline incur a 10% penalty per calendar day up to three days. Submissions more than 72 hours late receive no credit. Weekly Canvas quizzes must be submitted by Monday at 11:59 p.m.

Public Health Major Passing Grade

Students majoring in Public Health must achieve a grade of C or higher in PUBH 210 to satisfy degree requirements. Courses with grades below C cannot be counted toward the major.

Final Exam Policy

The final examination (Monday, December 14, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m.) is scheduled by the University Registrar and can't be moved without the Dean's written approval (Faculty Handbook §5.5). A student with three or more final exams on the same calendar day may reschedule one of them. Requests go to the instructor of the middle exam by the last day of classes. For this term, send the request by Wednesday, December 9, 2026 (Student Handbook §6.4).

Academic Integrity

Alkimi University is an academic community devoted to rigorous scholarship, open intellectual inquiry, and uncompromising ethical conduct. All students are subject to the regulations of the Alkimi University Academic Integrity Policy. Academic dishonesty—including plagiarism, cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication of empirical data, and unauthorized submission of academic work generated by artificial intelligence—undermines the integrity of the university and carries severe disciplinary sanctions. Sanctions range from a failing grade on an assignment or exam to an administrative course failure recorded as an 'XF' on the official transcript, academic suspension, or expulsion. Suspected

violations are formally investigated and resolved through the Office of Academic Integrity in accordance with Faculty Handbook §6. For detailed information, consult the Office of Academic Integrity, Lovell Hall 315, (555) 555-0163, integrity@university.alkimi.ai.

Accessibility Services

Alkimi University is committed to providing equitable educational access and reasonable accommodations for all students with documented disabilities, including physical, sensory, psychological, learning, and chronic health conditions. Students requesting academic accommodations must formally register with the Office of Accessibility Services, Harlan Hall 204, (555) 555-0155, access@university.alkimi.ai. Once approved, students will receive an official Faculty Accommodation Letter detailing approved accommodations. Students should present this letter to the instructor as early in the semester as possible, and at least one week prior to any exam or assignment requiring accommodation. Accommodations cannot be applied retroactively.

Student Wellness and Mental Health

Your physical health, psychological well-being, and mental health are essential to your academic success. If you experience heightened stress, anxiety, depressive symptoms, personal trauma, or academic burnout, free, confidential counseling and medical care are available through the Hollis Health & Counseling Center, located in the Hollis Center. Routine appointments are available Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. during the semester by calling (555) 555-0190 or emailing health@university.alkimi.ai. Urgent, 24/7 crisis psychological counseling is accessible immediately at (555) 555-0199.

Campus Student Support Services

- **Academic Advising Center:** Lovell Hall 101 | (555) 555-0158 | advising@university.alkimi.ai
- **Writing Center:** Whitcombe Library 3rd Floor | Free consultations on papers, reports, and research projects at any stage.
- **Whitcombe Library:** Whitcombe Library, Main Floor | (555) 555-0170 | askalibrarian@university.alkimi.ai
- **Hollis Health & Counseling Center:** Hollis Center | (555) 555-0190 | 24/7 Counseling Line: (555) 555-0199 | health@university.alkimi.ai
- **Global Health Case Discussion Table:** Calder Health Sciences Building 312 | Drop-in office hours for global health policy analysis, data sources, and international internship guidance with Dr. Duval.